A MERRY CHRISTMAS

How the Festival Was Celebrated and Enjoyed.

IN CHURCH AND BY THE FIRESIDE

Glad Words and Gleeful Carols, Prayer and Pageantry.

FOOD AND RAIMENT FOR THE POOR

Patients and Prisoners Feasted and Children's Hearts Made Glad.

Those early risers who looked on Christmas Day at five o'clock in the morning—the early worshipper on his way to church; the lamplighter, running with his pole in his hand to extinguish the street lamps; the policeman on his dreary post; the newspaper and last, not least, the little youngsters who woke early to see what Santa Claus had put in their stockg and then listened to the drip, drip, drip of the rain storm-all must have instinctively thought that t would be an indoor Christmas Day and that home was the best place to spend it. They were right. Yesterday was mostly spent at home or at the houses friends. It was notably a day of family herings. At the ferries, the railroad stations the horse cars the majority of the assengers were evidently on their way to pre-rranged festivities. They were mostly elderly from the country, carefully protected from the storm by an abundance of wraps, each carrying a carefully packed present fresh from the hands of the storekeeper, or family groups, with the bouncing plus-eyed baby in the arms of the father, on its way d its first Christmas Day with grandpa and grandma, and great expectations legibly written in the innocent expression of its smiling face. There was a diminished attendance at the churches. Neither the solemnities of the day, the much advertised musical attractions nor the floral decorations were sufficient to induce the multitude to enter the Handel, the music of Mozart, the hymns of en or the expected eloquence of the he late breakfast table the ordinary Sunday worshippers. The mighty acclaim of "Glory to God in the Highest" and "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing" was listened to by comparatively few.

throughout the day. Their quietude was disturbed only by the unmusical cadences of the horn of the small boy, which was heard in nearly every side street and every avenue. In the evening the city put on a brighter aspect. The storm had absted its fury, the rain ceased to fall, and the consequence was the purveyors of amusement respectan abundant harvest of dollars at their respective box offices. So the day ended weil and was a merry Christma

TRINITY CHURCH.

The services at Trinity Church in the morning ere very imposing and the music and floral deco ions unusually fine. The flowers were all cutano ere arranged in appropriate figures, filling the quite a number of people, among whom were many all expressed the warmest commendation of the artis-tic taste displayed. At half-past ten o'clock Mr. Albert Meialahn, Jr., commenced playing the following chimes, which were executed in fine style:—Ringing the changes; Angels from the Bealms of Glory; Children of the Temple; Carol, Carol Christinas; Ring out the Bells; Silent Night, Holy Night; The

Terrors. It is full of solishness and iniquity. Hope is gone. The old world is condemned for sin. The heavens are opened, and a light, not from, but to, man shines forth. The Eedeemer is born. This is God's welcome to man on this day. He sends His Son to save us from the consequences of our own wicked-

weicome to man on this day. He sends His Son to save us from the consequences of our own wickedness.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO.

What has man ever done to save himself? Nothing. All the means of salvation come from the goodness and mercy of God, and therefore we should sing "Gioria in Excelsis Deo," an anthem never to cease. When we contemplate when, how and where the Redeemer came into the world and on what mission he came we can only say, "Wonder of wonders," and give thanks to God for His mercy. Look at that humble group in Bothlehem standing by the manger silently gazing on the lowly crib in which the infant Jesus is laid. Who is this young woman, wife or virgin, and who is that venerable man beside her? The whole thing is incomprehensible to us without the light of taith. Look not too closely into that scene; ask not of any man what this means. It is something which passeth man's understanding. If you would know how wast and incomprehensible this mystery is ask how vast is the universe of God. Can you estimate the number of the stars; can you count those worlds beyond our own which fail the illimitable space? What is the length and depth, the breadth and the height of that stupendous universe which surrounds us? Who tramed these glorious orbs which shine in the heavens? All this is beyond the sight and the thought of man, as is the mystery of Bethlehem. Tremble if you will when you gaze on this scene, but draw not back. Faint if you will at the threshold of Christianity, but advance, leaning on the strong arm of God and firm in faith. This child about whom the shepherds gather, cas he be the Son of God, the Saviour of the world? Can the perfect and eternal personality of the Creator be held in this frail bark and launched on the stormy bliows of the world? Who is it that comes to us in this humble form? We can only exclaim, "God of God. The mystery of Bethlehem preaches Christ to you, not as a vague formula, not as a moral expression, but as a real father, a brother, one of ourselves. You cannot comprehen wh

CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY.

The decorations in the Church of the Holy Trinity were handsome in their simplicity. Festoons of evergreens, in which stars and crosses of the same material were arranged at alternate distances, hung upon the walls and the front of the gallery. The reading desk, pulpit and baptismal font were also sadorned with Christmas emblems, while on either side of the chancel stood a small fir troe. On the wall behind the chancel was a large green cross surmounted by a star, and above were the words "Prince of Peace." On one side of the chancel, in perpendicular form, was the word "Redeemer" and on the other "Emanuel." The special musical service was rendered in a creditable manner by the organist and choir. The rector, Rev. Stephen H. Tyng, Jr., commenced his discourse by saying that Matthew records that the birth of Christ occurred in the days of Herod, the time was come God sent forth His Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law-shiet history, Dr. Tyng continued, is God's purpose written plain. All the developments of life are a transcript of that book which no one was found worthly to open but the lion of the tribe of Judah. The days of Herod were dark days, when man had forgotten humanity, and yet the days of Herod word humanity, and yet the days of Herod word humanity, and yet the days of Herod word high. It was when no heip could be seen and no hope derived from anticipation that God sent to man from the heavens His only begotten Son. Let not presumptuous man tell us that the Cospel has been outgrown and that the promises of God are not sufficient for this generation. When they do this it seems to me that me are only seeking to bring the darkness of Herod's adorned with Christmas emblems, while on

REFORMED DUTCH CHURCH. At the Reformed Dutch Church, corner of Twenty

first street and Fifth avenue, Rev. Llewellyn D. Bevan, of the old Brick Church, occupied the pulpit by invitation of Dr. Rogers, the pastor. Dr. Bevan took his text from Matthew, i., 18, and said:—The great feature of the day to the Christian believer is the fact of the Incarnation. Non-conformists, in the rigidity of their creed, have held as their great car-dinal doctrine the principle of the atonement. In rigidity of their creed, have held as their great cardinal doctrine the principle of the atonement. In
their stern adhesion to this great truth
their excessive zeal led the early reformers to a comparative disregard of the no
less important fact that though Christ died
for man He was born for man. Christianity differed
irom paganism in one great and marked characteristic. The former, as strikingly evinced in the text,
is the religion of hope—the latter that of despair.
Paganism groped in the dark and sang of the glories
of the past. Christianity taught mankind that
a higher and nobler destiny awaited them on the
other side of the grave. Christicame to us in the
form of a babe, and that little babe in Bethlehem
taught a lesson in His helplessness that, more than
any other indication of His mission, has
served to prove His divinity. Humanity was personified and made divine. Hence Christianity is the
religion of the weak, the helpless, of the dependent
woman and the pleading infant. The oppressed, the
weary and the wretched find a retuge in the bosom
of the divine child who was born in a stable, and,
up to manhood, pursued the swocation of a carup to manhood, pursued the avocation of a carpenter. That child gave a dignity to labor which it never had before. Warriors, statesmen, orators and philosophers were the heroes of paganism. Christ rejected not these, but had a place in His arms for all. The influence of this great typical truth is happly more felt and bears more outward truit to-day than some years ago. Puritan influences are disappearing, and the religion of humanity is taking its place. Our very festivities are hallowed by the thoughts inspired on this occasion, and it has become fashionable even to be charitable at this season. The trivolous and the worldly minded, the indifferent and the cold, felt that it was mean and unworthy to neglect the poor and the suffering, and cheerfully contributed to the relief of the indigent. Childhood appealed to all Christian hearts to-day in the person of the God Child, and no one claiming to be a follower of Christ could reject the appeal. America especially had reason to be grateful to the Almighty. Peace and plenty were her portion, while Europe groaned under the weight of armies and the horrors of approaching famine.

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

The services commenced in St. Paul's with the past seven A. M. This was followed by Christmas eleven. The little ones marched in procession, and their singing around the church had a very pleasing effect. The eleven o'clock services were conducted by the Rev. Dr. Mulcahy's discourse was based upon the historical verity of the Incarnation and its authentication of Christian sentiments and aspirations. The singing was notable for its excellence. It was embraced in the following programme:—Te Deum, E fist, Sir Robert P. Stewart; Jubilate, C, Emil Naumann; Introit, Sing, O Heavens, Tours; Kyrie, Garrett; hymn, While Shepherds Watched, Beat; offertory, Glory, Power, Wisdom, Tours; Sursum Corda, Sanctus, Gioria in Excelsis. Professor Leo Kofler officiated as organist; tenor, D. H. Jeffery; soprano, Mrs. M. T. Jeffery; alto, Miss E. Schuetz, basso, John Saunders. Among the interesting features of the observances at St. Paul's was the lighting up for the first time of a truly magnificent and costly chandelier or corons, presented by Mr. Charles H. Contoit. It is said to be the finest in the country, and will be again illuminated on Sunday ovening next.

wices at St. Alban's Church, Forty-seventh street and Lexington avenue, began with solemn vescelebrant. Matins were sung at a quarter after ten o'clock, the rector officiating, and at eleven o'clock began the solemn celebration of the holy cucharist, the Rev. Father Darby being the celebrant. This service was preceded by a procession round the church with incense, lights and banners. The preachet was the Rev. Beverly E. Betts, who delivered a discourse appropriate to the season. The church was handsomely decorated with flowers and evergreens, and the musical part of the service was exceedingly attractive. Next Sunday the Christmas services are to be substantially repeated, the only changes being those which are rendered necessary by the difference in occasion.

The first mass at the Cathedral was celebrated by Vicar General Quinn at five o'clock. The Vicas altar, each priest being permitted on Christmas Day mass, beginning at half-past ten o'clock. The deacon and subdeacon of the mass were Rev. David Leahy and Rev. Thomas McCluskey, both from Troy Semi nary. The deacons of honor to the Cardinal were Bey. Father McMahon and Bey. Father McQuirk, the masters of ceremonies being Rev. Father Farley and Rev. Dr. McDonald. The Cardinal and all the priests were clothed in white vestments. At the first mass Novello's Adeste Fideles was high mass was as follows:-Kyrie and Gloria

sung. The musical programme for the pontifical high mass was as follows:—Kyrie and Gloria, from Haydn's No. 16, in B flat; Credo, Sanctus and Agnus Dei, from Gounod's Messe Solenneile; the offertory was the Adeste Fideles. The choir was augmented by a large chorus and a full orchestra was added. Mr. Pecher, the organist, took great pains in preparing for this service. The solonists were as follows:—Miss McCulloch and Miss Starritt, sopranos; Miss McCulloch and Miss Starritt, sopranos of Fordham College, presched the sermon, taking his text from the second chapter of St. Luke, fitteenth verse;—"Let us go over to Bethlehem and let us see this word that is come to pass." In conformity with this request, said the preacher, let us go over in spirit to Bethlehem and see this word that is come to pass. Let us prepare our souls for the scenes we shall there witness by disabusing our minds of any previously formed conceptions of this great mystery, for these were the conclusions of thuman wisdom, and here we are in presence of a divine fact, the most stupendous event in the world's history. We shall find a child wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger, in a stable. Let us not be ashamed to enter that stable. It is the temple of the living God. To-day the begotten of the Father from all eternity appears amone us as the Son of Man, born of a mortal mother. The Maker and Master of all things, He appears in His own creation in the utmost destitution. He comes unto His own and His own receive Him not. While we reverently take our place side by side with the shepherds let us try to real

he placed idols on the altars of the living God and kneit down and worshipped the work of his own hands.

THE ONLY PHYSICIAN.

But still more man was unable in this spiritual malady to go to the only physician of his soul or to ask for help from that physician. Nay, more, he was unable to desire his own recovery. What was to become of man in this deplorable condition? Nothing could have delivered him from that first storm on his soul but such an interposition on the part of God Himself as would intensity the promptings of His mercy without injury to His sovereign justice. For this purpose the second person of the ever adorable Trinity took upon Himself our nature, and together with our nature our punishment, but not our guiltiness. This is the explanation of the sublime spectacle that the crib at Behlelsem offers to-day to the whole world.

When, therefore, we do any supernatural work; when we give a cup of cold water in His name we do that exclusively in virtue of the strength we receive from the grace of God. There is no person however deprayed that lies beyond the reach of its influence. In the distribution of God's grace there is no distinction of Jow or Gentile, Grock or barbarian. All absolutely have their share in it. There is no time in which it may not work its miracles, no place in which has been made its depository daily dispenses it with generous profusion, but it cannot exhaust it, it is a boundless ocean which nothing can lessen and nothing enlarge.

The preacher concluded with an appeal for the orphans, a collection for whom was to be taken up during the mass. In doing this, he said, his hearers could discharge a portion of the duty that the infant Saviour in Bethlehem imposes on them.

time upon the earth again. When this earth becomes besotted with superstition, grovelling in vice, overcast with the shadow of death, as we read God's Word then is the time of the restitution of all things. Who does not see the days of Herod in his own past life? It was when God spake in your conscionce that was the time of Herod, and Christ was again begotten in you as the hope of glory. Have you known a season of sickness? Have you seen the shadow of death? Then you have received a reveistion of God in your own soul. Our merry Christmas may in a few days be turned to sadness, but the thought remains that God owns me and I own God, and that the Saviour is inseparable from my spirit. This thought will bring a new revelation and make every day a Christmas. extraordinary crowds which filled the church at each of the masses, especially at the high mass, when hundreds were unable to gain admission. The music sung at the latter service was a Kyrle and Gloria from Mercadante; the Credo, Sanetus and Agnus Dei being from Haydn's Mass, No. 3. The offertory piece was Lambilotte's pasteral hymn, Pastores, the solo of which was excellently rendered by Miss Cassidy, the soprano of the choir. The sermon was preached by the Rev. Father Brady, of the Paulist Fathers, who took his text from John, i., 1—"In the beginning was the word, and the word was with God, and the word was God." The preacher spoke at considerable length on the mystery of the Trinity, and of the Incariation as embodied in the dogma of the Trinity. He then explained the Christian dogma in relation to man's salvation, and concluded with an invitation to his hearers to come in spirit with the shepherds to the crib at Bethlehem to learn those lessons of heavenly wisdom which the infant Saviour alone could teach.

and relatives of the religious only being admitted

A Christmas dinner was given to the downtown poor yesterday afternoon in Crook's Hotel, No. 84 Chutham street, by a prominent gentleman, who is unwilling that his name shall be published. The dinner was given in the large dining room, in which three large and thirteen small tables were loaded till they groaned with turkeys, cranberry sauce, potatoes, fruit, plum puddings and confectionery. Seven hundred pounds of turkey, one barrel of potatoes, two barrels of cranberries, three barrels of apples and twenty sponge cakes, which were two feet six inches by two feet in size, comprised the feast. At a quarter before three those who had tickets gathered outside the hotel until the entire block was crowded. There they amused themselves with viewing the huge turkeys and steaming plum puddings through the windows. Several policemen were placed at the entrance so as to preserve order and prevent those not having tickets from entering. At three o'clock precisely the doors were thrown open and the crowd poured in. Mr. Parsons, who is connected with a fund for the poor, offered prayer, and word was given to "set to." It was an amusing sight to witness the avidity with which the poor devils who were gathered around the different tables availed themselves of the chance to "get away" with the good things set before them. Some of the boys, who belonged mostly to the newsboy and boot-black fraternities, knew not how to dispose of the viands set before them; some used their hnives, others their forks, but the majority contented themselves with their fingers.

Some of the "questa" were rather bashful, and the lady missionaries, of whom there were three present, were obliged to put the things on their plates. At the lower end of the room the boys were seated at a large table; the centre table was reserved exclusively for women, and a number of Italian children, not finding seats, contented themselves with stand-

at a large table; the centre table was reserved exclusively for women, and a number of Italian children, not finding seats, contented themselves with standing up near the door. When Mr. Parsons informed them that they could take away what they pleased their joy had no bounds and hats were tossed in the air, while several urchins gave vent to their exuberant emotions in lusty cheers. Although but 400 tickets had been issued, fully 700 people managed to gain admission, and even then there was a large amount of food left over. A half pound package of candy, apples and sponge cake was presented to each person on leaving. The gentleman who gave the dinner was present, but did not make himself known. No men were admitted to the feast.

If anything were wanting to convince the most lums to rescue the waifs of the street from the baneful influences by which they are surrounded, certainly a visit to the Howard Mission and Home for Little Wanderers on Christmas would dispel all doubts. Yesterday will not soon be tordoubts. Yesterday will not soon be forgotten by the hundreds of children who o'clock, and at half-past ten religious. were made happy by an excellent dinner, fruits, toys and articles of clothing. The acting superintendent, Mr. Hague, and Miss Oliffe, the painstaking matron, thanks to the bounty of manufactor of various values also as a seting superintendent, Mr. Hague, and Miss Oliffe, the painstaking matron, thanks to the bounty of members of various uptown churches, were enabled this year to do semething really handsome for the children of the mission. At noon, in the basement under the chapel, a dinner of stewed oysters, ple and broad was served to about fifteen hundred boys and girls. The dining room was tastefully decorated with evergreens and flags, and the sight of a mammoth Christmas tree, lader with toys, bags of fruit and small articles of clothing, placed all the little ones on their good behavior. Miss Lewis, who has charge of an infant class of about three hundred children, held a service of song in the basement lasting half an hour, at the conclusion of which the little ones were each presented with some article from the tree.

The chapel was very elaborately and artistically decorated with flags, banners, mottoes, wreaths and streamers. Upon the platform was a large Christmas tree, whose limbs bent under the weight of presents provided by the officials. In the afternoon Professor T. E. Perkins conducted a service of song, in which the children participated. Addresses were delivered by President A. S. Hatch, William Phelps and Mr. Tompkins, who acted as master of coremonies. At the conclusion of the services in the chapel the little ones retired in excellent order, and as they passed out each was presented with a toy, a print or ah article of clothing. About two thousand begs of toys, cake, candies and fruits were distributed to the smaller children, while between fifteen hundred and eighteen hundred woollen garments were provided for the more needy and deserving of the larger children and parents.

ST. VINCENT'S HOME FOR BOYS.

The mission over which Father Drumgoole presides in Warren street colebrated the festival in appropriate style. At half-past four o'clock in the morning there was a high mass, the choir consist-ing of young children of the Home. At the com-munion the "Angels' Christmas Chant" was rendered by a haif dozen well trained little orphans, all under eight years of age, who had been inmates of the Home from their infancy. At the offertory the "Adeste Fideics" was sung by a young orphan and destitute child who entered the Home at a tender age and who has no recollection of any relatives or former friends. Two other masses followed, one at six and the other at half-past six in the morning. The distribution of over two hundred tuil suits of clothes, including overcoats, caps and shoes, followed. A concert was given by the children of the Home during the forencon. A beantiful and pathetic poem entitled "St. Joseph's Union!" was recited by one of the orphans, and an address was read by another. About four hundred children took dinner at noon, the feast consisting of 650 pounds of turkey, 125 pounds of beef, 60 pounds of fresh ham, 320 pounds of rich plum pudding, with sauce, 2% barrels of mashed potatoes, 200 large bunches of celery, abundance of crabberry sauce, a full supply of various vegetables, with pice, cofee, fruit and several states and things. dered by a haif dozen well trained little orphans, abundance of cranberry sauce, a full supply of various vegetables, with pies, coffee, fruit and several other good things. At nine o'clock the children visited the Crib of Bothlehem and sang appropriate hymns. Then came songs and other amusements. And through all this programme of enjoyment for the little boys beamed the round, good-humored face of the Rev. Father Drumgoole.

NEWSBOYS' LODGING HOUSE.

At the Newsboys' Lodging House, New Chambers street, the day was spent as is the custom there. There were no exercises of any kind, but after dinner the evening was spent by large numbers of the boys in the gymnasium and with singing. Some few days ago Mr. Charles O'Connor, the popular superinten-dent of the institution, received the following letter

dent of the institution, received the following letter from Mr. William M. Filess, who has for some years past furnished the dinner for the boys. He said:—
Will you do me the favor of getting up the usual Christmas dinner for the boys, and invite as many as the house can hold! To please me you cannot give them too much or have toe many.

A pleasing incident of the day was the distribution of good warm ciothing, shirts and socks, to about two hundred of the boys. The money for these presents, some \$500 in amount, was sent from Europe by General Van Allen through Mr. A. G. Brown. About five hundred boys ast down to dinner. The large dining room would only accommodate acout three hundred and sixty at a time, but the others were as carculity and plentifully provided for at a second table. The menu, although not of the greatest variety, was ample, and everything

At the Chapel of the Holy Comforter for Seamen, on West street, a grand Christmas festival was held

which is garrisoned on Governor's Island spent the day very quietly. There was no dress parade, and the only departure from those observances which characterize an ordinary Sunday was the circum-stance that the mess dinner was a trifle more toothstance that the mess dinner was a trifle more tooth-some. There was an abundance of turkey, roast beef, plum pudding and an extra allowance of grog. At half-past ten o'clock there was morning service at the chapel, Ohaplain Goodman officiating. Despite the inclemency of the weather there was a good at-tendance, the members of the garrison and visitors being largely represented. The remainder of the day was spent by the inhabitants of the island, for the most part, in the retirement of their respective quarters in social enjoyment.

Four hundred and thirteen families, aggregating about two thousand persons, were made happy for the time being through the medium of the New York Charitable Aid Society for Women and Children. A distribution took place under the auspices of this body at No. 10 Aster place, which embraced, in addition to poultry and other provisions, 376 pairs of shoos, together with garments, all amounting in value to \$1,000. Six truck loads of articles in all were on hand for the bouelt of the needy, and if the necessary articles are forthcoming the society will not allow its work to end with the holiday season.

There was a converts' meeting in the hall of the fords an opportunity to the young members to testify how much they have been benefited by their con-nection with the association. Several of them did so yesterday, describing the manner of their conver-sion to Christianity and the blessings conferred upon them during the year just past. Prayer and music completed the programme of services. A similar meeting took place in the evening, when there was a large attendance of people interested in the work of the association. ords an opportunity to the young members to testify

Warden Finn took good care of his 290 guests at the Tombs. He provided them with 654 pounds of turkey and chicken, with vegetables of various kinds in proportion. He also sent supplies to the prison. ers in Essex Market, Jefferson Market, Yorkville and Harlem prisons. When the Herald reporter visited the prison about noon, Deputy Warden Mark Fin-ley, who completed his thirtieth year of service in the Tombs on Christmas Eve, was superintending the romes on Christmas Eve, was superintending the preparations for the prisoners' dinner in the kitchen of the prison. Two immense copper caldrons were placed on a raised brick platform, and were filled with a rich soup, in which

fast, after the usual routine, occurred at eight o'clock, and at haif-past ten religious services were held on the second tier of the prison. Rev. S. G. Law preached an appropriate sormon; Miss Betker played on the melodeou, and a choir, composed of Miss Gussie Miller, Miss Agnes Klein and Miss Lincoln, did the vocalistic part of the work.

PERMAPS THEIR LAST CHRISTMAS.

Chastine Cox and Pietro Balbo, the two convicted murderers, were in cells respectively Nos. 3 and 5, Murderers' Row, on the first floor of the prison. The reporter approached Cox's cell and said, "How do you feel, Cox?"

His face was close up to the grating, and there was a rather unpleasant look in his eyes as he answered, "I feel as well as I know how."

"How do you like your quarters in there?" was a further question put to him as the reporter took note of the many pictures distributed over the walls of the cell and the general air of comfort for a prison apartment that the place exhibited.

"I have got to like it," said Cox, in a querulous tone.

"I have got to like it," said Cox, in a querulous tone.

"How do you.—?" but the reporter was unable to finish his question, as Cox interrupted him by saying, "I don't wish to talk no more, and I just want to listen to that prescher."

Rev. Mr. Law was at this moment making the walls of the prison reverberate with his theological eloquence.

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Rev. Mr. Law was at this moment making the walls of the prison reverberate with his theological eloquence.

Balbo, the Italian murderer under sentence of death, was much more cheerful.

At noon dinner was served, and the great crowd of prisoners sat down to it with, except in occasional instances, a very cheerful expression of face. The Tombs for the time being lost all its associations as a prison, and the assembled multitude at dinner seemed as happy as if they lived in luxury and freedom on Fitth avenue. Reeper Hennessy furnished the list of prisoners in the Tombs yesterday, as follows:—On the first tier, 29; on the second, 31; on the third, 29; on the fourth, 29, and in the yard devoted to drunk and disorderly chracters, 46; in the new prison, 38, and boys, 11; total, 290, of whom there were 212 males and 78 females. After dinner the prisoners were induiged in a walk about the corridors for two hours, and then there were more religious services. Dr. Heath preached a sermon, and a choir composed of ladies of the City Mission, including Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Siellas and Mrs. Davis, sang a variety of hymns. These same ladies ondexored to make Christmas as cheerful as possible for the inmates and piaced wreaths of evergreen over every prisoner's cell. When the music and preaching where over the prison reverted to its old routine, but the prisoners could hardly lose the remembrance of having spent at least one bright day within the dismal Tombs.

The imprisoned and insane on the East River islands were treated to a substantial repast in which the national fowl was very conspicuous, and the gusto with which they disposed of it spoke volumes for their relish of the meal. The Department of Charities and Correction sent several thousand pounds of chicken and turkey to the unfortunates, and a careful calculation leads to the theory that every prisoner got away with nearly a pound and a half. At the Charity Hospital, for instance, are 982 inmates who were regaled on 1,380 pounds of turkey, and there was not a great deal left after the dinner. Those who were confined to beds of siekness, but whose condition was not serious, astonished their nurses by formidable work with knife and fork and threatened to make sad inroads upon their diges-tion. Down in the kitchen a dozen large "coppers" were steaming with their savory mess of fowl and

were steaming with their savory mess of fowl and vegetables during the dinner hour, and the repeated draughts upon their capacity seemed for some time to be ineflectual. Forty nurses in neat attire ate their Christmas meal together, and eighty-three epileptics and paralytics displayed remarkable appetites when the opportunity offered.

IN THE PENITERITARY.

A visit was made by a Herall reporter to the Penitentiary. In the morning Father Vedder held services in the chapel, Many prisoners were present. On holidays the men and women imprisoned there are released from work, but are confined in their cells. Hence an hour of religious services affording them temporary liberty is easerly welcomed. This privilege of attending church services was also accorded yesterday to prisoners confined in cells into which the light cannot penetrate. Fifteen hundred pounds of turkey were provided for 843 prisoners, and if all accounts are correct the recipients of this bounty did not have any too great a task for their gastronomic powers. At precisely twelve o'clock the gong sounded and instantly an attendant

ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE RIVER.

The day was observed in a quiet, joyous, dom manner in the City of Churches. The various houses of worship were well attended in the foremoon, and in the afternoon and evening the theatres were liberally patronized. The stores were gener-ally closed throughout the city. The inmates of the public asylums for the poor were cenerously provided for at dinner, and the orphans were not forgotten. Sheriff Riley treated the pris-oners at the Raymond Street Jail to an excellent dinner of turkey, and the convicts at the Kings County

In the Protestant churches of Brooklyn Christman

elebrations, which began on the eve of the festival, were continued during the day with religious and social services for old folks and young. Religious services were held in Christ Church, at which Bev. Dr. Partridge preached a sermon suitable to the season. A sunrise prayer meeting was held in First Place Methodist Episcopal Church, led by the pastor, Rev. Mr. Bowdish, who made a brief address. At seven o'clock a similar service of prayer and praise was held in South Second Street Methodist Episcopa was held in South Second Street Methodist Episcopal Church. In the evening the Sunday school festival took place, when the presents of books, oranges, candles and goodles generally were dispensed to teachers and scholars. Rev. Mr. Gulick presented a Christmas sermon yesterday morning in Twelfth Street Reformed Church and Dr. Putnam did the same in the Unitarian Church of Our Saviour on Monroe place. Very little that is now was said in any of the sermons. One of the pleasantest enter-tainments of the day was the observance by the any of the sermons. One of the pleasantest entertainments of the day was the observance by the Sunday School Missionary Society of Sands Street Methodist Episcopal Church of the thirty-first anniversary of its existence. On the platform, on raised seats, sat little girls of the infant class, dressed in white, while in front seats below them sat the more mature members of the school. The Rev. Messrs. Fletcher, Graves, Gilder, Parker, Buckley and other ministers were present, and an entertaining address was delivered by Dr. Buckley. It was full of anecdote, incident and experience, which kept the little folks amused for half an hour or more, when they received their Christmas gifts and departed to turkey land. Pleasant entertainments were also given in the afternoon at Embury and De Kaib Avenue Methodist Episcopal churches, at the Mayflower Mission of Plymouth Church, in Jay street; at the Woman's Christian Temperaneo Union Rooms, in Groone avenue, where a service of song and Bible reading was held, and at St. Augustino's Protestant Episcopal (colored). Church, where a special Christmas service was held at five o'clock, and the Rev. P. A. Morgan preached. The Independent African Methodists, over which the Rev. J. B. Murray presides, ignored the religious side of the day and enjoyed themselves at a fair in their church in Atlantic avenue, near Third, a house they have recently purchased and in which they worshipped for the first time last Sunday. The fair is designed to help them to pay off a portion of the debt incurred in this purchase. At the First Baptist Church, in Pierrepont street, the Sunday school children and their friends mutually entertained each other. Two large Christmas trees, laden with toys and trinkets, stood on either side of the pulpit and gilttered in the gaslight. After piesant songs were sung by the children and short adverses at hyper Thomas and the superintendent of ant the little ones assumed the superintendent of
the school the trees were unburdened of their load,
and the little ones assumed the responsibilities.

In the Protestant Episcopal churches the great
feature of the religious services was the music.
This was particularly noticeable in the churches of
the Redesmer, Holy Trinity, St. Mary's and a few
others that were visited. The Church of the Redeemer, on Fourth avenue and Pacific street, was
handsomely decorated with evergreens, in the midst
of which the gas jets shed a sombre light on the
large congregation gathered in spite of the storm
without. The music was very hne, and included
brass instruments as well as organ and cholr. The
sermon of the Rev. Mr. Leonard was one of special
reference of the service in St. Peter's Church,
State street, where the Rev. Dr. Paddock officiated.
There was not a vestige of adornment in the bouse;
the music was good. In St. Ann's Church on the
Heights the case was almost similar. Instead of a
prepared discourse Dr. Scheeck made an address,
embodying gratitude to certain members for valuable
gifts to the church and to himself. In some respects the day was peculiar in St. Ann's. It is now
a free church, and all its current expenses
are met by voluntary offerings. The Doctor
had never before, he said, known so enthurch was beautifully fostooned with evergreens
and the chancel was especially luxurious, for on
the communion table stood a new service of silver,
which twenty-nine years ago Mr. George D. Morgan,
of Irvington, on the lludson, donated to St. Ann's,
ha being then a vestryman. After almost a generation's use he had the same articles melted and remade in the most modern style of the engravor's
art, and at this Christmas time presented them
again to the church. A flagon and a paten, given
by a lady member of the church in momorial of her
deceased husband, were also used for the first time in
the communion nervice yesterday. Bestdes these given
the had the same articles melted and remade in the most modern style of

and Grohan; bassos, Mr. Otto Fleming and Messra, Cartwright and Doherty; soprano, Miss Isidora Martinez; contraito, Mrs. A. Christianson.

First mass at St. Peter's Church, corner of Warren and Hicks streets, was at four o'clock, when the chimes played Novello's Adeste Fideles. Loretz's Veni Croator was given, and as the offertory Cantique de Noel, the mass sung being Millard's Sixth Mass. The Christmas eard was sung at the second mass

At different public halls in Williamsburg during the afternoon the customary holiday hops were held, and the two theatres of the locality were also

The weather materially interfered with the programme of outdoor sports on Long Island, and many hog guessings, horse races and pigeon shoots had to be postponed; but within doors the weather had no be postponed; but within doors the weather had no effect upon cheerful family reunions and dinner parties, while fairs and bazasts for charitable purposes were the better patronized, as they were about the only places, except the churches, to which dull spirits could resort. For the first time, perhaps, in the history of the island religious services were held in the churches of all denominations; but with the exception of the Catholic and Episcopal Churches, there was no attempt to do special honor to the day. There were fewer city people in the country than is usual on such an occasion, and as a consequence the country people flocked to the city for amusement.

As usual on Staten Island, Christmas was observed as a general holiday, the business places in the sov-eral villages being mostly closed. The chimes were rung in the morning, and colors were displayed on the public buildings. The five hundred "old salts" of the Snug Harbor, at New Brighton, were furnished by Governor Melville with about a cartload of turkeys for dinner. Dr. C. Henry King, Physician in Chief and Superintendent of the Scamen's Retreat, at Staplston, supplied the disabled soamen in that institution with a roast turkey dinner, and all those sick in the different wards of the hospital were treated to extra trusts and delicacies. The Rev. Dr. Kipp conducted services there in the afternoon. Sheriff Brown, at the County Jail at Richmond, made generous provisions for the prisoners, including Reinhardt, the wife murderer. Mrs. McCormack, matton of the County Poorhouse, provided extra dinners for all the inmates of that institution, and the 400 children at the Child's Nursery at Four Corners were provided with good dinners and presents. The churches throughout the island were elaborately decorated and the Feast of the Redeomer was a special devotion in a number of them.

JERSEY CITY AND HOBOKEN.

The Christmas holiday in Jersey City, Hoboken and vicinity was duly observed, both in the matter of church services and in home testivities. The poor and destitute were not forgotten by those in a provided at the various hospitals, orphan asylume and the Hudson County Children's Home. The inand the Hudson County Children's Home. The inmates both of the County Prison and the Aimshouse were furnished with a substantial repast by
the Board of Freeholders. Impressive church ceremonies took place in a number of the most
prominent houses of worship, those at St. Peter's
Roman Catholic Church, in Jersey City, and also
at the Church of Our Lady of Grace, in Hoboken,
being particularly impressive. At the latter,
Mozart's Tweitth Mass was sung by an augmented
choir, assisted by the New York Philharmonic Seciety, under the leadership of Mr. A. Neuendorff.
The morning services at the Protestant Episcopal
churches were well attended and the edifices were
profusely decorated. In the afternoon the Sunday
school scholars belonging to the churches of nearly
all denominations held interesting exercises and
were the recipients of suitable gifts at the hands of
their teachers and friends.

While the streets of Newark were almost deserted and the congregations at the numerous houses of worship were not large, considering the special serworship were not large, considering the special services arranged for the occasion, the hearths and homes were everywhere made bright and happy. Right merrijy was the day spent within doors. As usual, the Episcopal churches and many temples of other denominations were tastefully trimmed with evergreens and flowers, and trained choirs sang anthems and carolis appropriate to the day. At St. Patrick's Csthedral at half-past ten o'clock solemn Pontifical mass was celebrated, Bishop Carrigan being the celebrant. The sermon was preached by Very Rev. G. H. Doane, Vicar General. The music was tounod's Messe Solennelle. In the evening there were many bails, parties and theatrical performances. Excellent order prevailed, only half a dozen arrests being made all day.

CHANGEABLE WEATHER IN GEORGIA--NUMEROUS ACCIDENTS-EVIDENCE OF RETURNING PROS-

> (BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.] ATLANTA, Dec. 25, 1879.

Christmas Eve here was the warmest ever known freely. To-day it turned bitter cold. A grest many accidents occurred to-day from large poppers. One doctor had twenty-three calls for wounded fingers, eyes, &c. A young man had his arm blown off at the elbow by the secidental discharge of a shotgun. More money was spont than during any holiday known since the war. EX-REBELS AND THE ARMED SER-

VICE.

Your paper recently contained an article signed "Opequan" in opposition to your editorial favoring prohibiting the employment of ex-Confederates in the army and navy of the United States. I have not lately seen so narrow and, withal, so ignorant an ebullition of passion as is contained in this commuout indulging in slang or ill temper, that it was the determination of the Southern people to acquire by lawful and legitimate means an equal share to all the lawful and legitimate means an equal share to all the rights and privileges of American citizens, and the repeal of all such vindictive legislation as the sample in question, he would have hit the nail squarely on the head. Let "Opequan" and other howlers like him read the history of their country, particularly the debates of the Convention which formed the present government of the United States, and he will learn something or the powers of the contracting parties, which powers never have been and never will be yielded, because they form the fundamental principles of American libgity. This writer should be candidly informed that the civil war was only ended by the long continued and reiterated assurance of Mr. Lincoin and Congress that the rights of the Southern States and people would be the same under the constitution as before the war, and they laid down their arms in the besief of the honesty of these assurances. Anything in the way of disability or punishment for participation in the war constitutes a wicked cheat, a fraud upon Confederate officers, soldiers and people. If West Point is or ever was a charity school, the obligation of cadets to serve in the army for a stipulated time should be more clearly stated than it is. Besides, the Southern people before the war (and even now) did not have to depend upon elecmosynary institutions for the education of their Lees, Jacksons and Johnstons. The writer fought through the war, is in favor of peace and good will, but will not move a step further to conciliate such fellows as "Opequan."

A CONFEDERATE ARTILLERYMAN.

COVERED WITH BLOOD.

Patrolman Joseph Tyrrell, of the Twenty-seventh precinct, while passing Greenwich street on his post at about two o'clock yesterday morning came across a man whose head, face and ciothing were completely covered with blood. The man was weak and almost unable to walk, leaving large pools of blood behind him on the sidewalk. With the assistance of Patrolman Jourdan Tyrrell took the sufferer to the station house, where an ambulance was telegraphed for to the Chambers Street Hospital. A few minutes later institution, but before he was placed in the wagon he was seized with convulsions twice from loss of blood. Dr. Wright, the attending surgeon at the hospital, dressed the patient's wound, which was a heavy, deep cut in the back of the head, severing several arteries. The man then told the following story:—

several arteries. The man then told the following story:—

"I had entered a lager beer salcon on Third avenue, between Fifteenth and Sixteenth streets, for the purpose of getting a glass of beer, when some young men, who were intoxicated and lounging around the place, came up to me. First they abused and then they attacked me, one of them striking me on the back with some heavy sharp instrument. I became unconscious for a short time, but finally found myself lying in the street. I entered a Third avenue car, and after reaching the City Hall wandered around, not knowing where I was going, my head being so confused. I had not been drinking, but was perfectly sober at the time."

The wounded man gave his name as Charles Holman, his age as twenty-seven years, and his occupation as that of a ropemaker. He resides at the corner of Grand avenue and Aliantic street, Brooklys.